



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

All Department/District Heads

At its meeting held November 25, 2003, the Board took the following action:

19

The following item was called up for consideration:

Supervisor Molina's recommendation to enact an immediate policy limiting the abuse of the Ralph M. Brown Act by prohibiting disruptive members of the public to hold more than one item after the majority of the Board has determined that his/her actions are inappropriate and indeed disruptive.

Supervisor Molina made the following revised statement:

"The Brown Act entitles a member of the public to speak before a governing body and express their concerns and ideas regarding any issue before the Board. The Brown Act also allows any member of the public to address the Board on any other issue, however, the Board is prohibited from acting on it unless the matter is already on the agenda.

"During the last several Board meetings, several members of the public have consistently caused delays and interruptions of the meetings. County Counsel has recommended that, to deal with this problem, the Board institute a rule to eject disruptive people from meetings and, if necessary, prohibit them from speaking at future meetings for up to 90 days. The definition of 'disruptive' currently is in the Board rules, and includes such conduct as refusing to stop addressing the Board from the crowd, a breach of the peace, or contemptuous, disorderly, boisterous or violent conduct that interrupts the orderly course of the meeting."

Karen Ocamb, Merritt Holloway, Warren Williams, Julio Giron, Candace Owen, Yvonne Michelle Autry, Hugo P. Pacheco, Christine Edwards, and Genevieve Clavreul addressed the Board.

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After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky, Knabe, and Burke; Noes: None; Abstention: Supervisor Antonovich, the Board took the following actions:

1. Ordered that, effective immediately, the attached Sections of the Rules of the Board be amended to reflect the following additions:
 - a. Limit the abuse of public speaking privileges by allowing the Chair, or the Board upon a vote, to remove a person who is being disruptive from the meeting;
 - b. Allow the Chair, or the Board upon a vote, to prohibit such persons from speaking at future public Board meetings for up to 90 days, based on the number and severity of prior incidents of disruptive conduct;
 - c. Conform the Board's current practice of limiting each speaker to three minutes per meeting;
 - d. Delete the limitation that people be heard only on one item per meeting; and
2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and Executive Officer of the Board to ensure that the new Board rules are available to the public, including on the County website.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor